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(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Takimoto et al.

International Application  
No. PCT/JP2004/001214

International Filing Date:  
February 5, 2004

For: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS  
AND METHOD, AND PROGRAM

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: Group Art Unit: N/A  
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: Examiner: Not Yet  
: Assigned  
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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Preliminary to initiation of the prosecution of the  
above-identified pending U.S. patent application, the following  
amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.